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DIA WASHINGTON DC//ASD/ISA//  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Alleged CIA Prisons and  
Flights - General Elections in Israel

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights  
General Elections in Israel

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

The opening of the Socialist Congress in Le Mans, marked by  
infighting within the party dominates a number of headlines  
and editorials. With the presidential elections only 18 months  
away, resolving the party's problems will be a crucial task  
agree most dailies.

The top international stories include one of today's leads in

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Le Figaro: "Secret CIA Prisons: Europe Concerned."  
Liberation's front-page claims that the McCain amendment on  
torture has "America Divided." (See Part C)

Le Monde mentions the "Controversy in Europe on the CIA's  
Secret Flights." Dailies report that officials in Spain,  
Sweden, Norway and in the European Parliament either have  
opened formal inquiries or demanded answers from US officials  
about CIA flights. Le Figaro's article asks: "the question  
today is to know if the global war on terrorism has turned  
into a 'dirty' war."

Le Figaro reports Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and new Labor  
Party Leader Peretz's decision to hold elections that could  
take place as early as the end of February. (See Part C)

The terror suspect who allegedly financed the attacks in Paris  
in 1995, Rachid Ramda, is on the verge of being extradited to  
France. Paris has been asking London for his extradition for  
the past ten years. "Better late than never" claims France  
Soir. Le Monde reports that another person suspected of having  
taken part in the 2004 attacks in Madrid and held in London is  
also due to be extradited to Spain. The daily suggests that:  
"these two events could mark a change on the part of London  
that has consistently refused to cooperate with other European  
countries in the fight against terrorism."

Dailies mention that trade negotiations will be the central  
theme of the APEC Summit and regional editorials are critical  
of President Bush's tour of Asia. Jacques Guyon writes in  
regional La Charente Libre: "Apparently George Bush never  
tires of. handing out good and bad grades to countries in  
terms of democracy. His arrogance, his pseudo-prophetic  
attitude towards democracy looks like a headlong rush when at  
home he is increasingly unpopular."

Le Figaro also reports President Bush's visit to South Korea:  
"In diplomatic terms, polite phrases between leaders are  
usually the bandage that hides the fracture. This was the case  
during the bilateral meeting yesterday when George W. Bush and  
his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-hyun repeated that their  
alliance has never been stronger."

### (C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

#### Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights

##### "Brute Force"

The editorial in left-of-center Liberation by Patrick Sabatier  
(11/18): "The argument that all means necessary can be

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deployed to prevent the loss of innocent lives, including disrespect for the law, parallel battlefields and the use of torture. is false and dangerous. Torture cannot be authorized and less still legalized. It took a former war hero. the ultra-conservative John McCain to remind America that torturing a prisoner is an odious crime. The fact that the CIA, with the complicity of allied regimes, 'outsourced' the torture of prisoners far from American soil adds hypocrisy and cowardice to a political and moral blunder."

### General Elections in Israel

"A Redistribution of the Cards in Israel"

Pierre Rousselin for right-of-center Le Figaro (11/18): "The advent of Amir Peretz at the head of the Israeli Labor Party has shaken up domestic politics in Israel and could have repercussions on the peace process with the Palestinians. Everything will depend on what happens on the Palestinian side after the legislative elections in January. The American Secretary of State gave a significant boost to Mahmoud Abbas by forcing Ariel Sharon to sign an agreement concerning the Gaza border. This agreement is important for three reasons. It gives the Palestinians a degree of sovereignty. It provides for the deployment of EU observers. and above all it signifies an increased commitment on the part of American diplomacy to the peace process."

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